

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) In a printing environment, a method for selectively processing a fax job using a multi-functional peripheral, the method comprising:

initiating a fax request at a computer device in communication with the multi-functional peripheral, wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral and wherein the computer device including includes a print subsystem having a print spooler;

spooling a fax job corresponding to the fax request through the print subsystem of the computer device, ~~wherein the fax job is constructed as a sequence of commands from a fax description language;~~

despooling the fax job to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral; and

using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job.

2. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the step for initiating~~ a fax request includes:

constructing the fax job; and

scheduling the fax job for despooling.

3. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein ~~the step for initiating~~ a fax request is performed by at least one of (i) a user and (ii) an application.

4. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the step for~~ spooling the fax job includes despooling the fax job to a print processor.

5. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the step for~~ using the multi-functional peripheral includes ~~recognizing the fax job as a fax request~~ connecting the multi-functional peripheral to a process on the computer device and sending the fax from the multi-functional peripheral to the computer device.

6. (currently amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 5, wherein the multi-functional peripheral retrieves the fax from storage of the multi-functional peripheral. ~~the step for initiating a fax request includes at least one of:~~

- ~~opening an electronic document;~~
- ~~selecting one or more print commands;~~
- ~~selecting a multi-functional peripheral from a printer selection input dialog; and~~
- ~~selecting one or more fax options.~~

7. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the multi-functional peripheral pulls the fax from another location of which the multi-functional peripheral has been notified. ~~claim 6, further comprising steps for:~~

- ~~converting the document to one or more graphics device interface commands;~~
- ~~sending the graphics device interface commands to a driver associated with the multi-functional peripheral; and~~
- ~~converting the graphics device interface commands to a fax format.~~

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fax is a future fax and wherein the request to retrieve the fax is a request instructing the multi-functional peripheral where to deliver future faxes. ~~further comprising a step for interpreting at least a portion the fax job at one of (i) a client computer device, (ii) a server computer device, and (iii) the multi-functional peripheral.~~

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job includes automatically routing the future fax to a destination indicated by the request to retrieve the fax. ~~the step for interpreting at least a portion the fax job includes selectively performing processing relating to the fax job at one of (i) the client computer device, (ii) the server computer device, and (iii) the multi-functional peripheral.~~

10. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job includes retrieving the fax from storage of the multifunctional peripheral, connecting with a receiving process at the computer device, and sending the fax to the receiving process at the computer device. ~~when the fax request is a request to receive information via facsimile at the multi-functional peripheral, further comprising at least one of the steps for:~~

~~selecting a target multi-functional peripheral;~~

~~selecting one or more fax options;~~

~~initiating a fax retrieval;~~

~~constructing the fax job; and~~

~~interpreting one or more fax description language statements.~~

11. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job further comprises converting the fax into a format compatible with the receiving process at the computer device. ~~further comprising a step for executing the fax description language statements.~~

12. (currently amended) A system configured to selectively exchange information via facsimile, the system comprising:

a computer device that includes a print subsystem, wherein the print subsystem includes a print spooler;

a multi-functional peripheral coupled to the computer device, wherein the multi-functional peripheral is configured to dynamically process a fax job that is configured to be spooled through the print subsystem and despoiled to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral, and wherein the fax job comprises a sequence of commands from a fax description language; and

a fax request generated at the computer device, wherein the fax request corresponds to the fax job, and wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral that has been received and stored by the multi-functional peripheral. ~~corresponds to one of:~~

(i) ~~transmitting information via facsimile from the multi-functional peripheral;~~

(ii) ~~receiving information via facsimile at the multi-functional peripheral~~

(iii) ~~configuring the multi-functional peripheral; and~~

~~(iv) — obtaining configuration or status information.~~

13. (original) A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising a network, wherein the network couples the computer device and the multi-functional peripheral.

14. (original) A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a server coupled to the network, and wherein the computer device is a client computer device.

15. (original) A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

a second multi-functional peripheral coupled to the network; and

an interpreter coupled to and employed by the multi-functional peripherals that is configured to accept a page description language for printing and the fax description language for faxing.

16. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the interpreter is further configured to accept a scan description language for scanning.

17. (currently amended) A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for selectively processing a fax job using a multi-functional peripheral, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

constructing a fax request at a computer device in communication with the multi-functional peripheral, the computer device including a print subsystem having a print spooler, wherein the fax request is a request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral;

spooling a fax job corresponding to the fax request through the print subsystem of the computer device, wherein the fax job is constructed as a sequence of commands from a fax description language;

despooling the fax job to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral for processing of the fax job at the multi-functional peripheral.

18. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein ~~the step for constructing the fax request includes:~~

constructing the fax job; and  
scheduling the fax job for despooling.

19. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein ~~the step for spooling the fax job includes despooling the fax job to a print processor.~~

20. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the executable code further implements ~~a step for recognizing the fax job as a fax request.~~

21. (currently amended) A computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein the request to retrieve a fax from the multi-functional peripheral is one of: (i) a request to retrieve

a fax already received and stored by the multi-functional peripheral and (ii) a request instructing the multi-functional peripheral where to deliver future faxes. ~~the executable code further implements steps for:~~

~~converting a document, which is to be sent via facsimile, to one or more graphics device interface commands;~~

~~sending the graphics device interface commands to a driver associated with the multi functional peripheral; and~~

~~converting the graphics device interface commands to a fax format.~~